

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIO DE 03712 060225Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
-----130825 070138Z /65

R 051616Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, BR

SUBJECT: STUDENT POLITICAL PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 3544

1. SUMMARY. APPARENTLY SOME OF THOSE STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR SUBVERSION IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN JULY (SEE REFTEL) HAVE BEEN TORTURED WHILE IN CUSTODY OF 1ST ARMY ANTI-SUBVERSION UNIT. BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND ELEMENTS IN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAVE PROTESTED ON EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN RIO AND SAO PAULO PRESS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS TO STUDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT WHEN UNIVERSITIES IN GREATER RIO REOPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. RIO AND SAO PAULO PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 4 THAT PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY AND MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, HELENO FRAGOSO, CHARGED AUGUST 3 THAT TWO OF THOSE 21 STUDENTS (AND OTHERS) ARRESTED ON SUBVERSION CHARGES HAD BEEN TORTURED BY DOI/CODI (1ST ARMY ANTI-SUBVERSION UNIT). ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS VARY, EVIDENTLY STUDENTS HELD

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BY POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POLICE (DPPS) WERE TRANSFERRED FOR BRIEF PERIODS FOR INTERROGATION BY DOI/CODI WHERE THEY ALLEGEDLY UNDERWENT TORTURE DURING QUESTIONING PROCESS. FRAGOSO WAS JOINED IN HIS DENUNCIATION ON AUGUST 4 BY THREE MORE ATTORNEYS WHO CHARGED BEFORE MILITARY COURT THAT 19 OTHER PRISONERS ALSO TORTURED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NO MALTREATMENT APPARENTLY

OCCURRED AT DPPS FACILITIES. STATE SECURITY OFFICIALS DENIED ANY MALTREATMENT OF STUDENTS (WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DOI/CODI WHICH OPERATES UNDER DIRECT ARMY CONTROL) OBSERVING THAT TORTURE CHARGES WERE FREQUENTLY MADE IN POLITICAL ARREST CASES.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT RIO CARDINAL EUGENIO SALES, WHO ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH MILITARY AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF PRISONERS TO 1ST ARMY COMMANDER WHO SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE MATTER. MEANWHILE, BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OAB) HAS REQUESTED JUSTICE MINISTER TO LOOK INTO MATTER EMPHASIZING LONG-STANDING OAB POSITION THAT ONLY RESTORATION OF HABEAS CORPUS CAN GUARANTEE PREVENTION OF SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

4. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTS THAT PRISONERS NOW ON HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING DOI/CODI INTERROGATIONS. THIS CONFIRMED TO CONGEN BY LOCAL JOURNALIST.

5. COMMENT. THESE ARE FIRST ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS TO SURFACE IN RIO DE JANEIRO DURING RECENT YEARS ALTHOUGH FRAGOSO IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICER IN 1976 DID MAKE REFERENCE TO TORTURE DURING INTERROGATION OF PERSONS OF HUMBLE BACKGROUND ACCUSED OF COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION. THESE CHARGES
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WILL BE DOUBLY EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME OF STUDENT AGITATION AND COMING SHORTLY AFTER 2ND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO'S DISCOURSE ON RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS PROBABLE THAT TORTURE ALLEGATIONS WILL PROVIDE NEW THEME FOR RIO STUDENT MOVEMENT AS UNIVERSITIES REOPEN HERE LATER THIS MONTH.

6. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA.
DEXTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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